Oman— Oman has ordered stopping the printing of newspapers, magazines, and publications of all kinds and preventing their circulation as a measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

India— On March 26, seven journalists were injured when police assaulted them at a security checkpoint in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Azerbaijan— Three (3) journalists were arrested in April for criticizing the government's handling of COVID-19.

Jordan— Jordanian security forces arrested the owner of Roya TV, Fares Sayegh and news director, Mohamad al-Khalid, for airing a segment in which people from the poor neighborhoods of the capital Amman criticized the government for the COVID-19 lockdown.

Iran— Journalist Mohammad Mosaed arrested and detained by Iranian security forces after he criticized the state’s response to the coronavirus outbreak on social media.

China— During the pandemic, the Chinese government ramped up online censorship of information about COVID-19, suppressing “unofficial” media reporting, blocking critical discussion on social media and taking down investigative stories.

United Arab Emirates— authorities will fine people up to 20,000 dirhams if they share medical information about the coronavirus that contradicts official statements.

Turkey— Five journalists were arrested since March for reporting about COVID-19.

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Indian government urged the country’s Supreme Court on April 1 to pass an order stating that no information should be released by the media about the pandemic without first ascertaining factual position from the government. It was the first attempt the government to censor news about the pandemic, which failed as the court refused to pass such an order.

Andrew Sam Raja Pandian, founder of a portal called SimpliCity, was arrested for publishing a news item on alleged shortcomings faced by government healthcare professionals and alleged corruption by some employees of a public distribution system (PDS) outlet. A complaint was filed against him by authorities claiming the information was false and provocative.

Myanmar— Online news outlets in Myanmar have filed complaints with the Myanmar Press Council to protest Myanmar’s crackdown against press freedom. Authorities have blocked 200 websites in the country.

Philippines— Philippines largest TV network ABS-CBN ordered shutdown.

Vietnam— the authorities tightens media control by introducing fines for coronavirus “fake news.”

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